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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: Indochina

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SUBJECT: Reorganization of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Judicial System

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The Ministry of Justice of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), in order to reform the DRV judicial system, to abolish civil jurisdiction of military courts and to establish or reorganize local judicial organs, has issued the directive summarized below:

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1. All military courts with jurisdiction over various areas of Vietnam shall be abolished, beginning 15 October 1951. District and Provincial courts shall be established or reorganized to handle directly the legal problems of the people. The purpose of this action is to build up normal relations between the administration of justice and the daily life of the people, and to establish a uniform judicial system throughout the country.
2. The adjudication and execution of all legal matters shall be handled by the People's Justices, elected by meetings of the people's representatives during the period of transition following abolition of military courts and while local courts are being established.
3. Before the new laws of the DRV are issued, all judicial functionaries shall act on the authority of ordinances, regulations promulgated by the government at various times, and local customs.
4. The various interzones, after the military courts have been abolished, shall organize separate judicial bodies with jurisdiction over cases involving spies, collaborators, treason and crimes committed by persons in the armed forces.
5. The various provinces shall form high-level judicial training classes to train old cadres drawn from the present judicial service and newly-recruited judicial cadres. These trainees shall be given thought education and shall be taught to correct old conceptions.
6. The judicial system shall function on three levels:
  - a. The district courts shall be the trial courts.

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- b. Appeals from the district courts shall go to the provincial courts.
- c. The Central Ministry of Justice shall exercise final judgment on cases decided by the courts.
7. The judicial administration in areas occupied by the enemy shall be governed by separate rulings; the laws of the liberated areas shall not be applicable to those areas.
8. Reorganization of the judicial system is scheduled for completion within six months.

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